Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 SAB-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 $/018\,\mathrm{W}$

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064

UNCLAS PANAMA 0934

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: PN, OTRA

SUBJ: AMERICAN LEGION VISIT TO PANAMA

REF: STATE 15263

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF AMERICAN LEGION FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSIONS TO PANAMA AND RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING BRIEFING SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, MARCH 10

BRIEFING AT CIVIL AFFAIRS BUILDING IN CANAL ZONE BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM, FOLLWED BY VISIT TO MIRAFLORES LOCKS AND OTHER AREAS IN CANAL ZONE AS DESIRED BY GROUP. TENTATIVELY GROUP MAY PLAN FOR PARTIAL TRANSIT OF CANAL ON PANAMA CANAL COMPANY'S BOAT, LAS CRUCES, DURING WHICH LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. AFTERNOON WILL BE FREE FOR SIGHTSEEING, AS DESIRED BY GROUP.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

A BRIEFING SESSION BEGINNING 9:00 AM WILL BE HELD WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. TUESDAY AFTERNOON WILL BE LEFT OPEN.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

 $9\!:\!00$ AM BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR JORDEN AND MEMBERS OF HIS COUNTRY TEAM. AFTERNOON WILL BE OPEN. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMERICAN LEGION POST IN THE CANAL ZONE WILL HOST A RECEPTION FOR GROUP ON EVENING OF MARCH 12, TO WHICH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE INVITED. PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE VISIT HAS TENTATIVELY PORPOSED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE A RECEPTION FOR THE GROUP ON EVENING MARCH 10 OR 11. THIS, HOWEVER, REMAINS TENTATIVE. WILL ADVISE DEPT. WHEN FINAL DECISION CONCERNING RECEPTION IS MADE.
- 3. GEORGE VIETO, THE LEGIONS'S POST COMMANDER IN CANAL ZONE, HAS TOLD US THAT GROUP PLANS A TRIP TO SAN BLAS ISLANDS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9.
- 4. THE CHIEF OF EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION, JOHN BALCKEN, IS CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT AND MAY BE REACHED DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY CALLING 25-3600, AND AT HOME ON 26-5472.
- 5. WE UNDERSTAND GROUP WILL BE STAYING AT EL PANAMA SKYLINE HOTEL AND THAT BOYD BROTHERS, A LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY, WILL BE HANDLING GROUND TRANSPORTATION AND SIGHTSEEING.
 JORDEN

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